



"Building Partnerships – Building Communities"

## Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan Addendum to the March 10, 2016 Public Visioning Summary

### I. Background

To kick off the public visioning process, four public visioning meetings were held throughout Kittitas County; February 1 in Snoqualmie Pass, February 2 in Cle Elum, February 3 in Ellensburg, and February 10 in Vantage. These four meetings were summarized in the Public Visioning Summary Memo issued on March 10, 2016. The following summary of the Report Back Meetings and draft vision statement is an addendum to the Public Visioning Summary Memo.

The two Visioning Report Back meetings were held on March 15 in Cle Elum and March 16 in Ellensburg. The purpose of the meetings was to present the data and input received at the initial public visioning meetings and outline how that will influence the update of the Comprehensive Plan, including the Community Vision Statement. The topics covered in the Report Back Meetings included: the public input themes and potential vision statement elements.

The purpose of the overall public visioning process is to engage a broad segment of the community and region to participate in exercises aimed at developing a vision statement. The goal of the vision statement is to capture the shared image of what community members want their future community to be and inspire community members to work together to achieve the vision through the Comprehensive Plan. The discussions and input collected through the visioning process will serve as a guide for the rest of the comprehensive planning process.

### II. Report Back Meetings Summary

The primary component of these meetings was a small group exercise, which was developed as a version of "Magnetic Poetry" in that each group had two introductory vision statements and 13 elements that they used to compile a boarder vision statement to present to the other groups. Meeting attendees reviewed the pre-made vision elements (which were developed based on the public input themes outlined in the Public Visioning Summary Memo) to create their own version of the County's vision statement. If a meeting attendee wanted to add new language as an element, he or she was encouraged to do so with by editing the statements with markers or rewriting the element on a blank sheet.

The collaboration continued to build and foster a sense of community amongst the meeting attendees and gain a better understanding of how the residents of Kittitas Count want to see their community grow.

The following is a description of each meeting and a brief summary of the general input gathered (see Appendix C for other comments received at these meetings).



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### Cle Elum, March 15<sup>th</sup>

14 members of the public attended the meeting held in Cle Elum. Participants formed three groups for the vision statement construction exercise. All three groups had a staff facilitator that provided direction, time keeping, and offered input when necessary to keep the groups on task during the exercise.

Participants made some edits to the vision elements during the construction of their group vision statements. The edits included providing clarity in word choice and further defining the sentences based on their interpretations and interests. There were also edits made that resulted in combining sentences to address multiple topics within one sentence.

### Ellensburg, March 16<sup>th</sup>

17 members of the public attended the meeting held in Ellensburg. Participants formed four groups for the vision statement construction exercise. Two staff facilitators moved from group to group to provide instruction, time keeping, and provide input when necessary to keep the groups on task.

Participants made some edits to the vision elements during the construction of their group vision statements. The edits were similar in nature to those from the Cle Elum groups in that they provided additional definition or changes to the wording to better fit the group's interpretation of the sentence and what the vision statement should address.

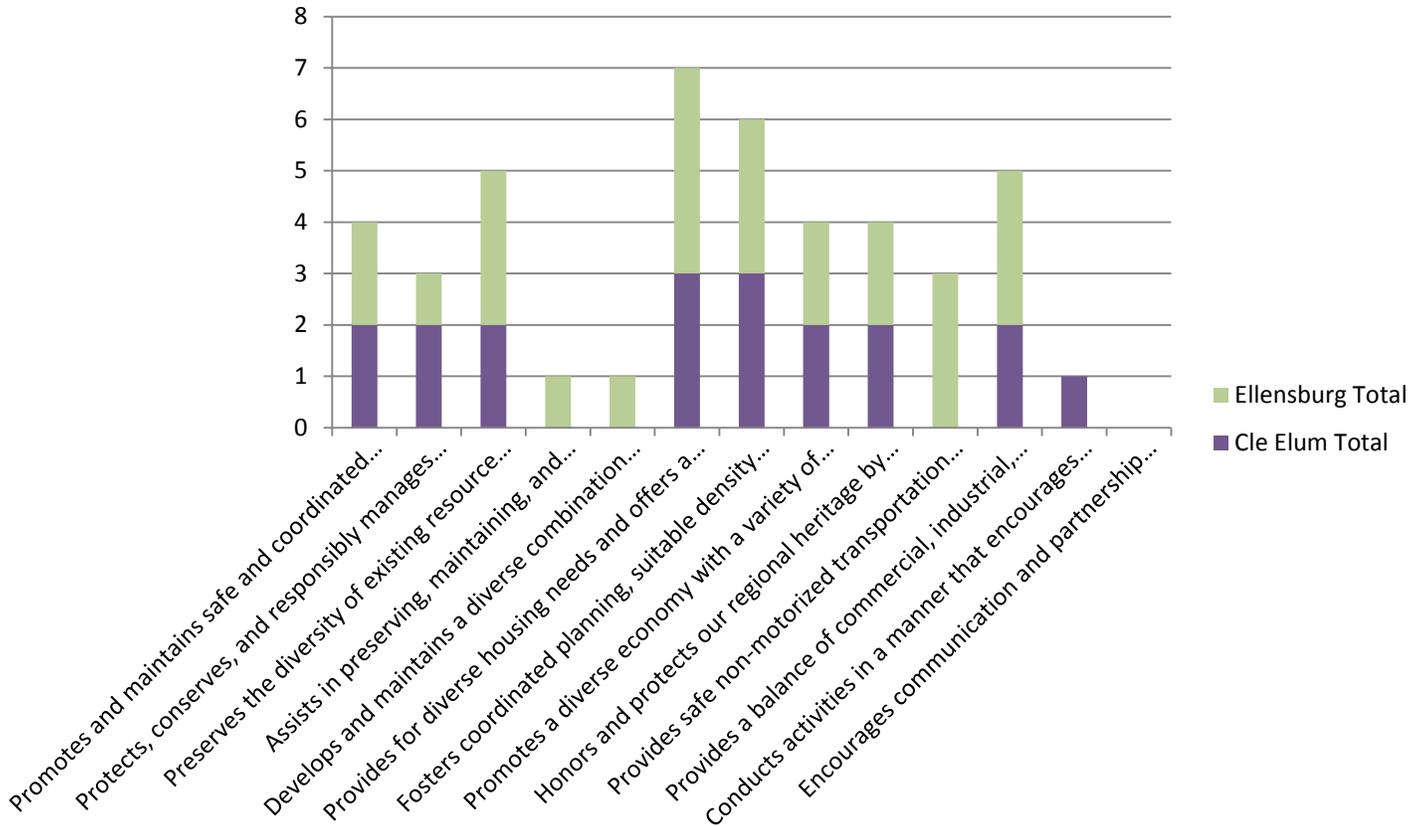
## III. Report Back Meetings Data Summary

The following charts depict the breakdown of input across both meetings. The first chart displays the breakout of support for each of the draft introductory statements to be used in the draft vision statement while the second chart displays the breakout of support for each of the 13 draft vision statement elements based on the public input themes. Support for a particular statement was tallied based on the number of groups which used the particular vision element in construction of their vision statement.

Chart 1: Introductory Vision Statements



Chart 2: Theme Vision Statements



Note that the full draft vision introductory statements and themes are provided in Appendix B. Due to size constraints, the charts only show the beginnings of the draft introductory statements and themes as space allows.

#### IV. Survey Results Summary

In addition to the Report Back Meetings, input was gathered via an online community survey which generated 74 responses. The survey was structured in the same manner as the Report Back Meeting Exercises so that the input was provided using the same constraints. The results are summarized in the following charts.

*Chart 3: Introductory Vision Statements – Survey Respondent Support*

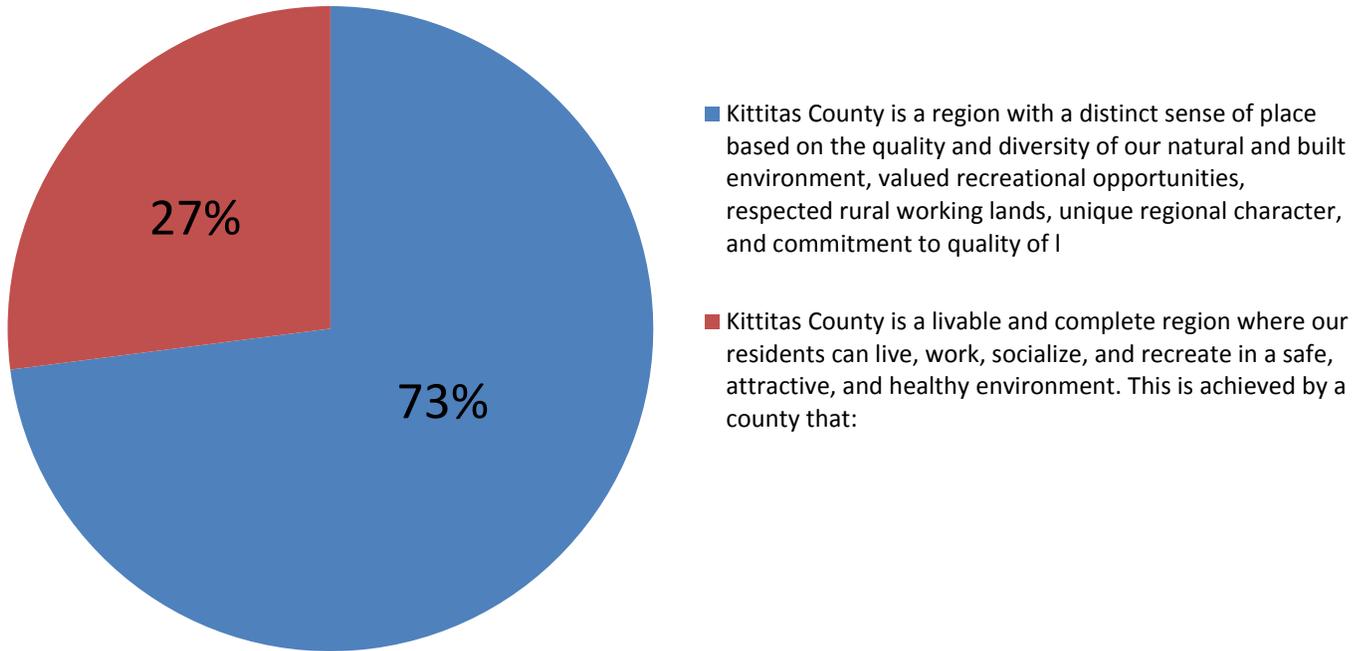
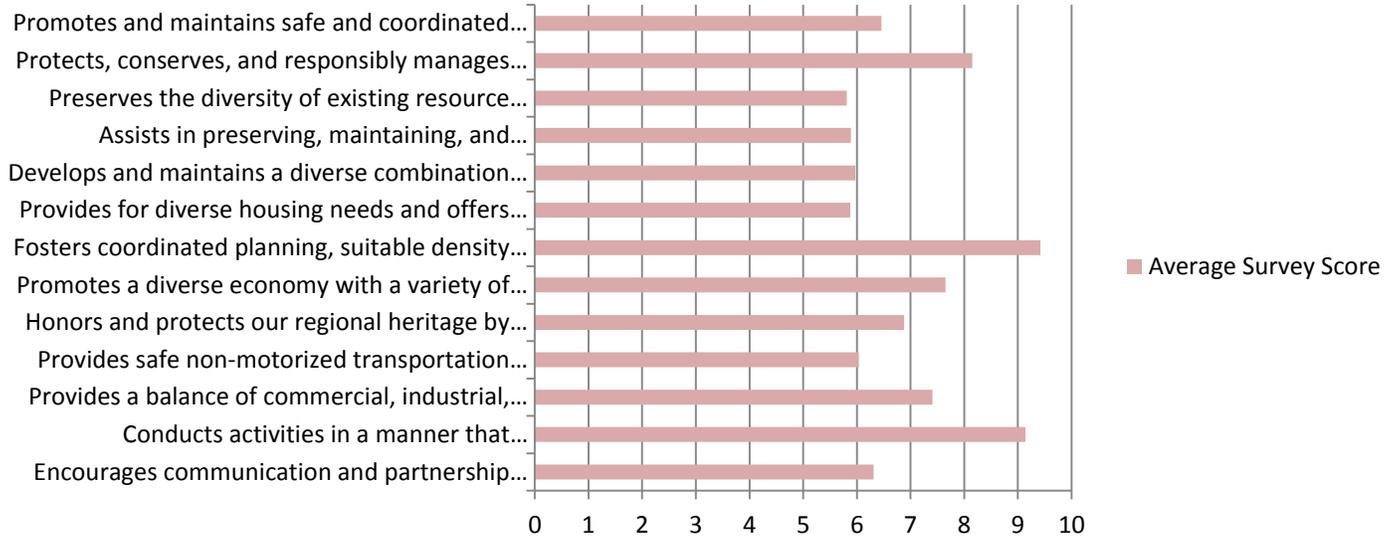


Chart 4: Theme Vision Statements – Survey Respondent Support



## V. Draft Vision Statement

The input that was received from the public was used to develop the County’s draft vision statement for the updated Comprehensive Plan. The input highlights the topics that are most important to the larger community and provides a broad framework for the growth of the County over the next 20 years. The vision statement elements which received the most support in both the Report Back Meetings as well as the online survey were included in the draft vision statement because they best represented the community’s preferences for future growth in Kittitas County.

Based upon the input received from the public, the following draft vision statement is proposed:

***“Kittitas County is a region with a distinct sense of place based on the quality and diversity of our natural and built environment, valued recreational opportunities, respected rural working lands, unique regional character, and commitment to a high quality of life.***

***Kittitas County addresses challenges of future growth in a direct manner. Coordinated planning and suitable density patterns ensure that rural areas, natural areas, and working lands are sustained for the benefit of current and future generations. An important factor in the County’s growth is fostering a diverse economy with a variety of employment opportunities achieved with a balance of commercial, industrial, and***



***manufacturing areas located and sized to ensure opportunities for rural-based employment. The diverse housing needs of current and future residents is met by providing a range of housing types that ensure adequate and affordable housing options.***

***Kittitas County enhances its regional character by preserving the diversity of existing resource tourism and promoting future opportunities for expansion and establishment of new resource tourism opportunities. The County protects, conserves, and responsibly manages natural resources through education, coordination, facilitation, and long term planning.***

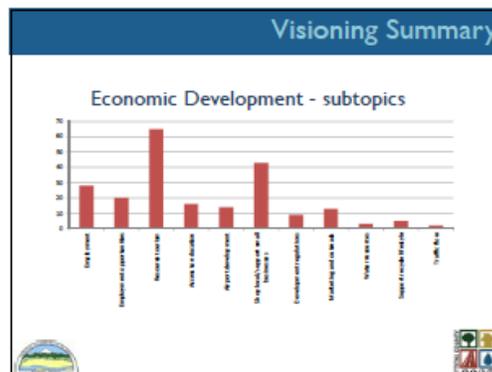
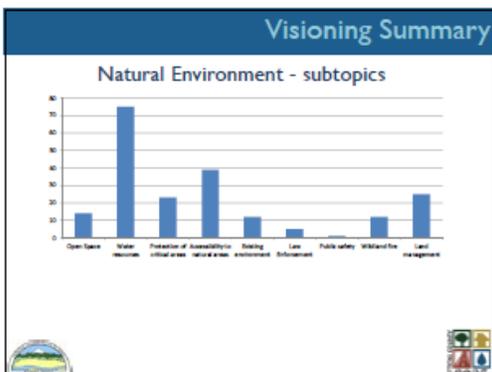
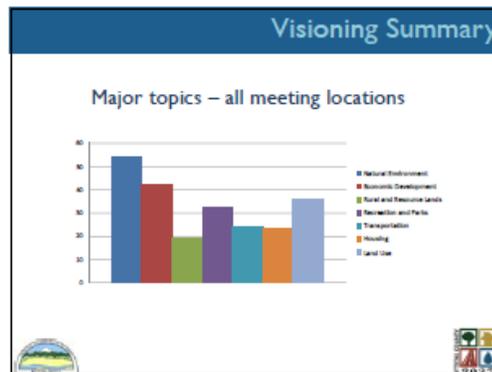
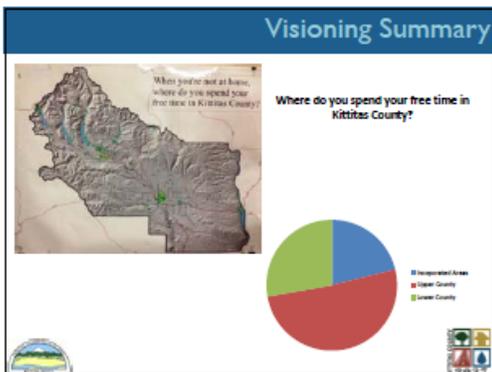
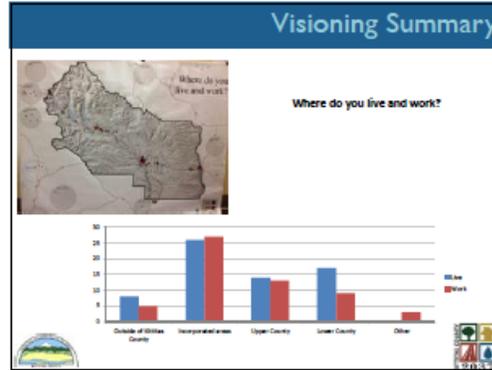
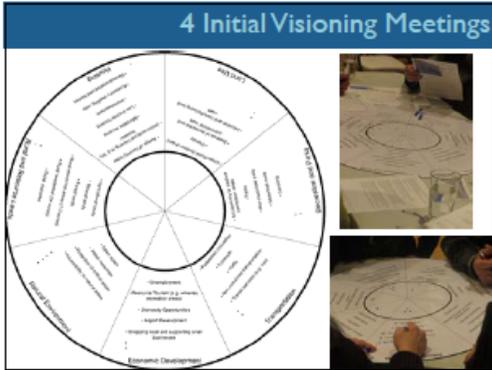
***The cornerstone of the County's approach to planning is conducting activities in a manner that encourages citizen involvement, enhances public trust, and promotes mutual understanding."***

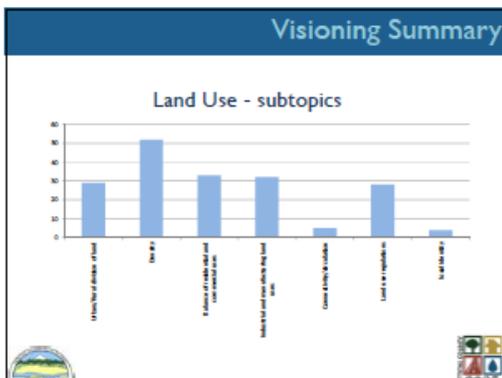
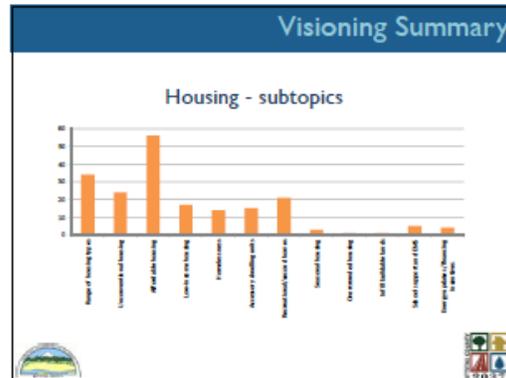
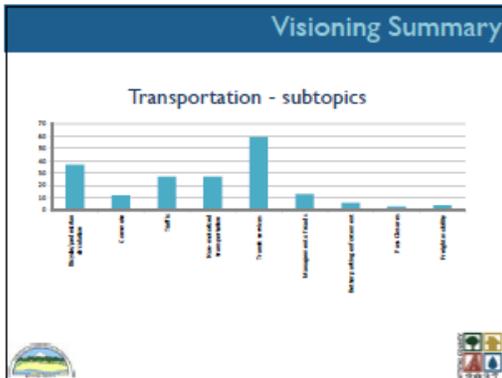
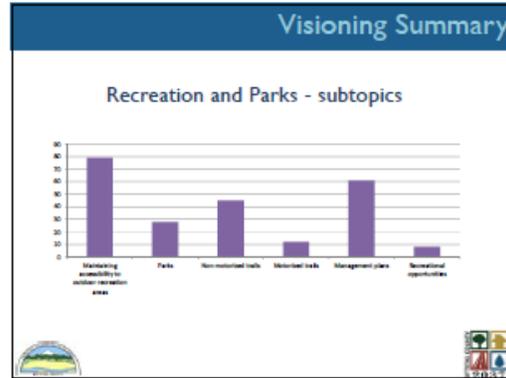
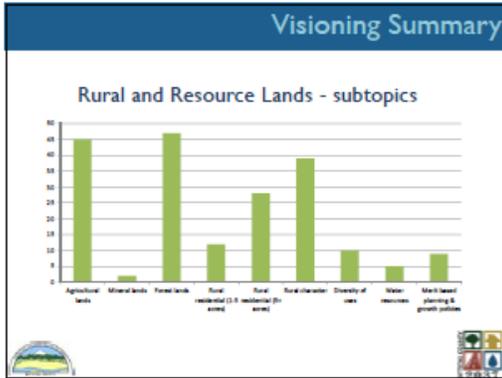
## **VI. Next Steps**

This Public Visioning Memo Addendum, including the draft vision statement, will be presented to the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners for review at the next regularly scheduled public meeting. Additionally, the draft vision statement will be included in the next edition of the County's Comprehensive Plan Newsletter for broader public dissemination. The public and Comprehensive Plan advisory groups will have an opportunity to provide input on the draft vision statement. The vision statement will be used throughout the comprehensive planning process to guide the development of the Plan, including the County's updated and new draft goals and policies.

Following the development of the vision statement, the County along with Comprehensive Plan Advisory Groups will begin work on developing appropriate goals and policies that are consistent with the new vision statement, leading to an eventual Draft Comprehensive Plan. Public input will be sought throughout the plan development and adoption process.







### 15 Fringe themes

- Non-motorized trails
- Shopping local and supporting small businesses
- Rural character
- Accessibility to natural areas
- Bicycle and pedestrian circulation
- Range of housing types
- Balance of commercial and residential uses
- Industrial and manufacturing land uses
- Urban/rural division of land
- Parks
- Land use regulations
- Rural residential (1 dwelling/5+ acres)
- Traffic
- Non-motorized transportation
- Land management




### Current Vision Statement



Kittitas County has a rich cultured mix that is a result of agriculture, education, and resource based industries such as timber and mining. Many families in the lower Kittitas Valley carry on long family traditions in farming and cattle production, while the Upper County is changing from the once powerful mining and timber industries to recreational-based and service enterprises. Central Washington University provides direct and indirect employment for a large portion of the population. The Ellensburg area and student population and educational services are expected to grow substantially over the next few years. More and more residents are moving to Kittitas County to enjoy the quality of life here while having to commute out of county for work due to lack of employment in the area.




### Construct a Vision Statement



1. Form small groups
2. Take a moment to review the statements at your table
3. Discuss the statements with your group, consider how these statements affect your everyday life
4. As a group, construct a vision for Kittitas County
5. Nominate a presenter to read your group's vision in the report back session
6. Listen to all presenters to learn which statements other groups used in their vision statement construction




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### Next Steps

Members of the Public:

- Review documents posted to Comprehensive Plan Update webpage: <https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/twenty-year-comp-plan.aspx>
- Consider if you will submit a [Comprehensive Plan idea](#) through a Citizen Amendment Request form
- Sign-up to indicate interest in an advisory group
- Follow the Comprehensive Planning Process on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KittitasCounty2037>




### Thank You!

Thank you for spending your time with us, your input is appreciated!

Continue to stay informed by signing up for e-mail alerts at:

<https://co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/twenty-year-comp-plan.aspx/org/cp>






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## Appendix B – Vision Statement Themes Used in Exercise

Table 1. Full Draft Vision Statement “Elements”

No.	Introductory Statements
1	Kittitas County is a livable and complete region where our residents can live, work, socialize, and recreate in a safe, attractive, and healthy environment. This is achieved by a County that:
2	Kittitas County is a region with distinct sense of place based on the quality and diversity of our natural and built environment, valued recreational opportunities, respected rural working lands, unique regional character, and commitment to quality of life. This is achieved by a County that:

Table 2. Full Draft Vision Statement “Elements”

No.	Theme
1	Promotes and maintains safe and coordinated access to the diverse outdoor recreational opportunities and natural areas that are available in Kittitas County
2	Protects, conserves, and responsibly manages water resources through education, coordination, facilitation, and long term planning
3	Preserves the diversity of existing resource tourism and promotes future opportunities for expansion and establishment of new resource tourism opportunities
4	Assists in preserving, maintaining, and expanding parks, trails, and recreation programs
5	Develops and maintains a diverse combination of transportation options within the County and its neighbors which serves land use activities, commuting patterns, and community needs
6	Provides for diverse housing needs and offers a range of housing types that ensure adequate housing options that are affordable to current and future residents
7	Fosters coordinated planning, suitable density patterns, and education to ensure that rural areas, natural areas, and working lands are sustained for the benefit of current and future generations
8	Promotes a diverse economy with a variety of employment opportunities that benefit the community
9	Honors and protects our regional heritage by promoting the ability to conduct farming, forestry, and mining activities for community benefit
10	Provides safe non-motorized transportation infrastructure that connects communities and services and promotes healthy lifestyles, recreational opportunities, and a range of transportation options
11	Provides a balance of commercial, industrial, and manufacturing areas located and sized to ensure adequate availability of goods and services throughout the region which promote opportunities for small-scale, rural-based employment
12	Conducts activities in a manner that encourages citizen involvement, enhances public trust, and promotes understanding
13	Encourages communication and partnership with other agencies to promote public access, responsible land management, and public safety



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## Appendix C – Other Comments Received at Report Back Meetings

*Table 3. Summary Table of Comments Received*

Comments Received	Method of submittal	Response
<p>Heard a great deal about selling off ag lands for retirement, etc. but that is very short sighted. Water is gold and should be directed to ag uses and the Coleman Creek bank should be open to ag and not limited to building permit applicants. Rural character surrounded by ag is ideal. Food security and enough water to grow food to meet our needs and the needs of a growing demand for sustainable ag which has grown between 2014 and 2015 by more than 13% by infrastructure that processes markets and distributes what our producers grow which would provide jobs in marketing, growing, and distribution.</p>	<p>Comment box</p>	<p>Comment will be brought forward to the resource land and land use advisory groups.</p>

## Appendix D – Report Back Meeting Handouts

Table 4. Visioning Meeting Major Themes

Rank	Topic	Votes	General Comments	Theme
1	Maintaining accessibility to outdoor recreation areas	79	Inviting trailheads; camping; fire management; Snow and water activities; Hunting and fishing; river access - Columbia and Yakima; ease regulations to promote access; build on countywide connectivity; don't infringe on private property; public land preservation and accessibility; open accessibility	Promote and maintain accessibility to all outdoor recreation areas.
2	Water resources	75	Pipe canal; management/delivery; conservation/Education; Yakima Basin/water rights; wind-pump Columbia for water storage; ensure water availability for growth; increase large and small holding infrastructure; headwater protection; protection; water resources can be economic driver	Protect and conserve water resources.
3	Resource tourism	65	Wineries; Recreation areas; encourage hops to be grown locally; Agri-tourism; destination tourism; capitalize on recreation opportunities; farm to market economy; expand opportunities that meet rural character; continued emphasis on agriculture/farming; farmer's market opportunities; rural tourism; more jobs around agriculture production/protection	Take advantage of diverse resources by supporting resource tourism.
4	Parks and Recreation Management	61	Enforcement; facilities; maintenance; countywide management plans; accessibility of information; improve and expand parks; county investment in parks; park and recreation districts; transportation to facilitate recreation	Improve parks management and maintenance.
5	Transit services	59	Bus; taxi service; shuttle; passenger rail and Amtrak; transit within county and beyond; gondola to	Support a wider range of transit options.



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Rank	Topic	Votes	General Comments	Theme
			Mission Ridge; regional bus services within County and beyond (Puget Sound and Yakima); park and ride service; support existing public transit; still too rural for transit	
6	Affordable housing	56	Workforce housing; affordable rental housing; make affordable housing a developer's responsibility; provide affordable housing in urban areas; first-time home buyers; housing costs are not in align with wages; provide affordable housing in urban areas	Increase the supply and affordability of housing.
7	Density	52	UGA development; urban density; prevent sprawl; limit development in rural areas; keep areas of lower density; mitigation for higher density parceling	Focus density in areas that can accommodate it to preserve rural areas.
8	Employment/Employment opportunities	47	Unemployment; underemployed; increase employment opportunities; provide higher paying job opportunities; diversify opportunities; address young people moving away after receiving education; research opportunities;	Promote an increase in the range of employment opportunities and industry types.
9	Forest lands	47	Improve health and protect forest lands; expand technology; encourage healthy forest; controlled harvests; timber sustainability (small diameter milling); alternative fuels; added value opportunity to enable forest products	Protect and conserve forest lands.
10	Agricultural lands	45	Preservation to continue; grow hops; emphasize agriculture; food security; protect local food resources; ability to conduct farming practices	Protect agricultural lands.



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Table 5. Visioning Meeting Fringe Themes

Rank	Topic	Votes	General Comments	Theme
11	Non-motorized trails	45	Non-motorized trails; more on road biking	Increase the number of non-motorized trails.
12	Shopping local and supporting small businesses	43	Prevent large businesses; second grocery store in Cle Elum; downtowns keep people here; support local business	Build a strong base of small businesses to serve the local community.
13	Rural character	39	Maintain rural character, provide income opportunities that meet rural character; maintain existing landscape and environmental diversity; we don't have sprawl; define rural	Maintain a strong rural character.
14	Accessibility to natural areas	39	Easements to promote accessibility; access point improvements; access without infringement on private rights; controlled access; accessibility for recreation	Improve accessibility to the natural environment.
15	Bicycle and pedestrian circulation	37	Need for bike/pedestrian space on high use areas/major roads; bike trails; dedicated space to biking and walking; shoulder development on multi-use roads; bicycle lanes on major roads; separated trails	Increase the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure on multi-use roads.
16	Range of housing types	34	Innovative housing options for all income levels; worker/employee housing; supplemental housing next to urban areas; apartments for non-student residents; lack of rental opportunities; important to get people to stay in the County	Increase the range of housing types.
17	Balance of residential and commercial uses	33	Balance of residential and commercial uses; adequate diversity for existing population	Maintain a balance of residential and commercial uses to ensure economic vitality in each community.
18	Industrial and manufacturing land uses	33	Industrial and manufacturing land uses; commercial and industrial uses near highways; more industry/manufacturing land; encourage for economic growth; industrial is the right designation for marijuana; underutilized industrial land	Increase the amount of industrial and manufacturing land base to provide more skilled jobs.
19	Urban/Rural division of land	29	Urban/Rural division of land;	Maintain the urban-rural divide to



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<i>Rank</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Votes</i>	<i>General Comments</i>	<i>Theme</i>
			coordination in UGAs; encourage urban areas around I-90; non-expansion of urban areas; County is nicely spaced out	preserve a rural nature and character.
<b>20</b>	Parks	28	Parks; local investment in parks	Promote local investment in parks.
<b>21</b>	Land use regulations	28	Improve marijuana regulations; less aggressive land use controls; maintain open space; maintain working resource lands; Merit based planning and growth policies; set-backs; historic preservation; wildland-urban interface protections; appropriate placement and balance of uses; mixed land uses for walkability and proximity of services; implement values through land use regulations; code enforcement	Improve land use regulations without increasing burdens on property owners.
<b>22</b>	Rural residential (1 dwelling unit/5+ ac)	28	Rural residential	Maintain and protect the stock of rural housing on large lots.
<b>23</b>	Traffic	27	Traffic	Improve traffic congestion in targeted problematic areas.
<b>24</b>	Non-motorized transportation	27	Non-motorized transportation infrastructure	Support alternative modes of getting around the County.
<b>25</b>	Land management	25	Forest/land management; wildlife/hunting; wildlife corridors; management of the environment; timber management; change public land policy to increase land use; no federal land ownership; responsible ownership; public safety; facilities and services; emphasize protection of wildlife corridors	Address differences in land management practices.

## Appendix E – Online Survey

*Table 6. Summary Table of Comments Received*

*Note: Some comments have been minimally edited for clarity.*

No.	Comments Received
1	Respects those who have lived here the longest and makes sure they have a say in how this county will look in the future.
2	Needs to add the tourist value the county has
3	The ideas expressed aren't too bad, but I feel that both statements are poorly written. Hopefully someone will change the wording to provide for better flow and comprehension.
4	Comprehensively focuses on each individual's needs for the best solutions for all.
5	Healthy natural environment and preserved wilderness and open space is of primary importance.
6	Add "safe community" to the first statement - a key consideration. Increasingly I feel unsafe in the older neighborhoods of Ellensburg. Also "quality and diversity of our natural environment and scale of the built environment" ...etc.
7	Does not split into two counties.
8	Both seem vague and loaded with language used doesn't have widely-understood meanings. What is a "livable and complete region," for example? What are "respected rural working lands?" Who has a commitment to quality of life? How is "quality of life" operationalized or measured?
9	I originally chose 1, but on closer read, 2 is shorter and better captures the core of what the vision is.
10	Replace - Kittitas County is a community whose citizens live meaningful lives. This is achieved by:
11	Respects private property, encourages job growth and creation, and provides attractions that bring in money from outside of the region.
12	Listens to the citizenry about its wants and needs.
13	Values its agricultural land and focuses growth in urban communities better positioned to provide the resources, support, and services.
14	Supports its people and retains its rural character.
15	We have a plethora of creative based organizations that add to the rich culture of the area. From Snoqualmie to Vantage, there are museums, galleries and arts events that are fun for visitors and residents.
16	Future growth of the county must be managed by the development of various standards for development and adhered to in order to insure a reasonable quality of life and level of safety for ALL residents.
17	Listens to the public and values and protects private property and 2nd amendment rights.
18	I am assuming this means question #3 Strike - respected rural working lands Add - agricultural based resources This is achieved through an appreciation of what nature has provided and a willingness to modify and mitigate our actions today for the benefit of tomorrow.
19	Replace the word "complete." What does this mean? Perhaps use distinct or special instead.
20	The vision statement would be somewhere in between both statements, actually. The second statement doesn't denote opportunity for change. The first statement acknowledges the complexities.
21	Involves local residents in the decision making process and does not allow special interests from the westside



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	or state level to override local residents' decisions to the detriment of local interests
22	I think the first vision statement is close, but a bit too wordy.
23	I chose the second option because it was a little more straight forward than the first. I liked some of what the first statement said, but it was a little bit too wordy.
24	The first option is very wordy and jargony
25	Wow - lots of statements below are what should be part of the vision but are not part of current reality, like conducting activities in a manner that enhances trust, promotes understanding etc.
26	Has a diverse group of individuals which respect and watch out for each other.
27	I'm not sure what "unique regional character" adds. Consider adding something about towns, successful communities....to add balance to "respected rural working lands" (which is great!)
28	Support of agriculture (farming and ranching) needs to be a primary focus. This is more than simply respecting rural working lands.
29	I guess there are things I like about both statements. I don't necessarily agree that the rural working lands are respected or that the county is committed to quality of life for its citizens. I don't really understand what a "complete region" means in the second statement.
30	Agricultural lands of long term significance need to be protected
31	In addition to the recreational opportunities, I think it's worth pointing out that we have a plethora of fish and wildlife species and the habitat important for their survival.
32	Add the words "our history" - based on our history - this is also very important to many residents

Chart 5. Survey Metadata – Age Range of Respondents

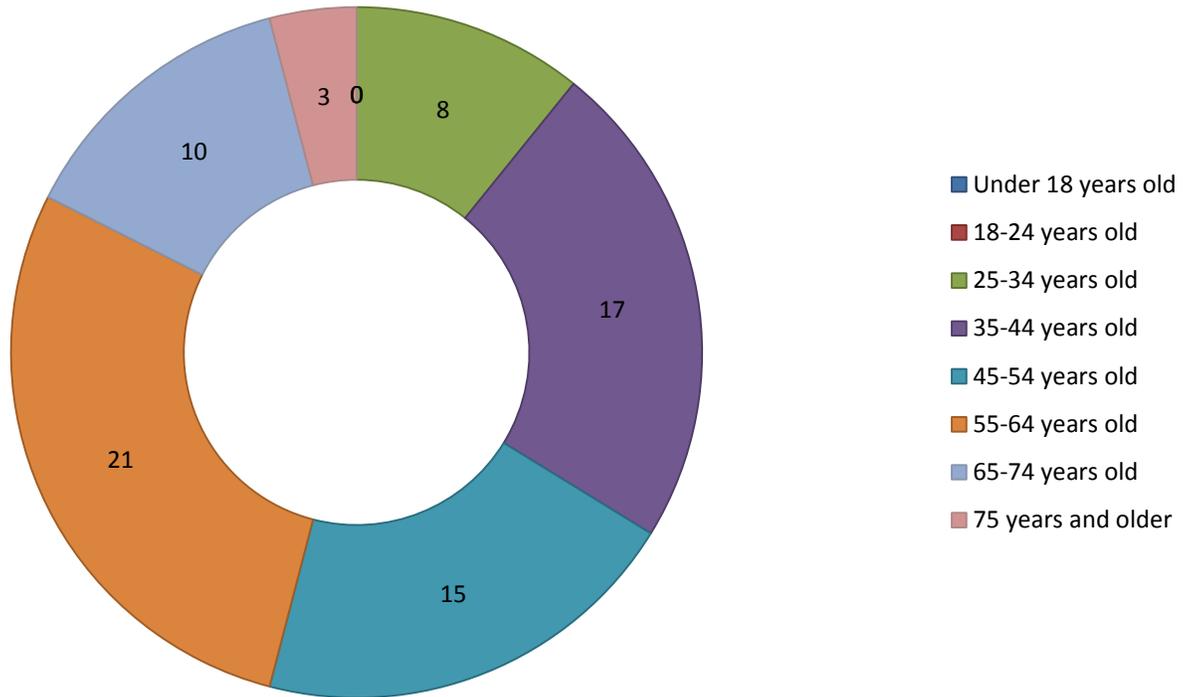


Chart 6. Survey Metadata – Geographical Representation of Respondents

